

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: Israel Klein**

**or Benn Tannenbaum**

**(202) 225-2836**

## **FUNDING FOR NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS SLASHED**

*Rep. Markey hails Appropriations Committee's decision to cut funding for 'Bunker Busters'*

**WASHINGTON, DC-** Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Taskforce on Nonproliferation and a Senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Select Committee on Homeland Security today praised the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development for rejecting much of President Bush's funding request for new nuclear weapons.

"President Bush is trying to steer this country onto the wrong nuclear path. By cutting the funding for new nuclear weapons, the House Appropriations Subcommittee has responded in part to my concerns about crossing the nuclear threshold by developing new, 'more usable' nuclear weapons." Rep. Markey explained.

Rep. Markey added, "There are serious questions about whether there are any real military requirements for new nuclear weapons. We know that our own military currently is trying to move away from nuclear weapons and would rather have new, more powerful, more accurate conventional weapons. This funding cut shows that there are some in House of Representatives who share these concerns. I intend to work with other Members to build on this success by cutting the remaining \$5 million in funding for the nuclear bunker buster."

President Bush's funding request included \$6 million for advanced concepts nuclear weapons and \$15 million for the continuation of a study on the feasibility of the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, or bunker buster. The funding for advanced concepts was cut to zero and the bunker buster funding was reduced to \$5 million.

David Culp, Legislative Representative for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers), said, "This is the biggest victory on nuclear weapons we've had in Congress in 15 years."

Rep. Markey concluded, "The Cold War is over. Why – and with whom—are we trying to start a new arms race? Instead of making new nuclear weapons and being part of the proliferation problem, we can now focus on halting the spread of nuclear weapons."

Additional information is available at Rep. Markey's website, <http://www.house.gov/markey>.

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